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SOURCE Ta Kung Pao.

CCP ISSUES NORTH CHINA LAND-REFORM REGULATIONS

Pai-p'ing, 20 October (NCNA) -- The North China Bureau of the CCP Central Committee issued instructions on 10 October 1949, concerning land reform in new areas to be put into effect during the winter and spring of 1949-50. It has been decided to inaugurate the land-reform program in North China in an area containing 15 million people, which includes some newly recovered regions. With the exception of Suiyan, where special conditions prevail, the program of equal land distribution will be effected.

The following conditions are laid down for carrying out the land-distribution program:

1. Where there is no landlord class, surplus land and feudal properties of the old-type wealthy farmers may be taken over and distributed to landless and near-landless farmers. However, these wealthy farmers and landlords will be given a share of land and property equal to that of the other farmers. The policy of taking lands and making paupers of the owners will no longer be employed.

All feudal and semifeudal loans with exorbitant interest rates will be cancelled, but loans of the People's government, People's Bank, people's mutual trade promotion loans, friendship loans, and wage accounts of laborers and shop workers will continue in effect.

Enlightened gentry, recognized by the masses as such, should be provided for as well as intellectuals, including those of the landlord and wealthy farmer classes and members of their families. The latter should be given indoctrination courses to direct their energies into the service of the masses. Landlords and wealthy farmers who change residences from one village area to another and conservative elements should be given the usual allotment of land and goods.

Flocks and herds of landlords and well-to-do farmers in North Chahar and other places should not be redistributed.

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In all areas, orchards and agricultural projects that are being managed in a progressive manner by landlords and well-to-do farmers should be left under their management and not confiscated or distributed.

Groves belonging to villages will be considered public property of the village. Graves and the groves on grave plots will remain the property of the original individual or group owners.

From the large buildings of great landlords, suitable ones may be selected to be used as barracks, hospitals, or schools and devoted to such purposes when permission is granted by the provincial authorities.

2. The policy of leveling the extremes without disturbing the middle will be carried out and the method of division of land according to the exact number of individuals will be discontinued. In this way feudalism may most surely be eradicated, the demands of the poor farmers and farm laborers be adequately met, and the unity of these classes with the middle-class farmers be established. It has been clearly demonstrated that the former plan of expropriating the lands of the prosperous middle-class farmers was more harmful than advantageous and should be completely avoided hereafter.

3. A very careful distinction must be made between classes in order to recognize clearly our enemies, strengthen the more than 90 percent of the masses who are peasants, isolate the influence of the feudalists, and stabilize and expand the battle lines of the people's democracy among the peasantry. In this matter the two 1933 documents and Comrade Jen Pi-shih's "Some Problems of Land Reform" should be followed implicitly in carrying out the democratic procedure of public discussion to distinguish classes. The mistaken method of arbitrary forcible elevation or demotion of class position must be resolutely opposed.

4. The legal executive body for carrying out the land reform is the delegates conference of all the agricultural groups, primarily the poor farmers and farm laborers but including the middle-class farmers. The structure of this organization may be changed by higher government agencies and higher agricultural organizations.

The leadership agencies of the peasants conference and the agricultural associations should include from one half to two thirds representation of poor farmers and farm laborers and not less than one third of middle-class farmers.

When the class consciousness and the organizational ability of a majority of the agricultural classes has advanced far enough, people's delegates assemblies should be organized on the village, chu, and hsien levels in order to complete the change-over from old governmental procedures.

5. A clear distinction should be made between various members of the landed classes, such as old-type tyrannical wealthy farmers and those who have come up into the wealthy farmer class from humble beginnings in the laboring class; between well-disposed landlords and tyrannical landlords. The treatment accorded each should be based on individual cases. An organized well-calculated opposition should be raised against those who have aroused the enmity of the masses. Prosperous middle-class farmers are still middle-class farmers and a clear distinction should be maintained between them and wealthy farmers.

Mass opposition to the wicked group should be combined with people's court procedure. Violence, whether beating, imprisonment, or slaying, must be prohibited. Death sentences must be passed by the hsien people's court and approved by the North China People's government before they may be enforced.

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6. A careful distinction must be made between the feudal real estate of landlords and old type wealthy farmers and their industrial and commercial holdings. In this matter, the policy of protection of industry must be followed. The original industrial enterprises and those more recently engaged in by these classes are all included in this policy, whether in the city or the country. Properties connected with their industries such as factory sites, stores, shops, residences, machinery, tools, metals, handicraft equipment such as reeling machines, looms, fluffing machines, cotton-bat presses, etc., are not to be confiscated.

7. Notice must be given that the practice of secreting wealth is illegal. The purpose of this notice is to expose treasures hidden in the ground by landlords and wealthy peasants. In connection with such notice, encouragement to the voluntary surrender of such treasures may be given by offering to permit the owner to retain a portion, perhaps a third, to be invested in industry or commerce, the balance to be distributed to the peasants in a reasonable manner. Treasures thus revealed that may have belonged to high officials should become the property of the government banks and may not be distributed.

Should owners of such property continue unwilling to refrain from voluntarily producing it, the only recourse is to continue investigation. Forceful excavation, violence to persons, imprisonment, or slaughter may not be utilized.

Each provincial committee should set forth a definite, practical plan of land reform in the newly occupied areas within the province and send responsible cadres to assist the party committees in these areas in preparation for the reform program. They should select and train cadres, and call conferences to teach class distinctions, how to distinguish policies clearly, what action is suitable or unsuitable, and how to set up plans.

This preparatory work should be completed by the end of October 1949. During the last days of October the hsien cadres should go into the country, study autumn planting conditions, familiarize themselves with the situation, discover and organize progressive elements, spread propaganda on the policy of leveling the extremes without disturbing the middle, establish and regulate mass organizations, explain and delineate classes, collate complaints, and arouse the enthusiasm of the masses.

After this preparation, they should proceed to carry out the distribution of the land and wealth of the landlords and wealthy farmers in a well-organized, well-led manner. Except for the cases of a very small number of obstreperous landlords who require action by the people's courts, the program will be carried out by reasoning, and by explanation of the law and the policy. Every step of the process should follow the idea of mass action.

There will be no mandatory compulsion, nor on the other hand will there be any lack of firmness. The leaders of the party on all levels must maintain firm control of the whole land-reform program. Never again should there be seen any unauthorized, unregulated activity, and no cadres may introduce any changes into the policy.

In areas long under the oppression of the enemy, living conditions are very bad and the land-reform program in these areas should be combined with relief activities, especially in areas where natural calamities have added to the distress of the masses. In such areas the reform program may be temporarily delayed in favor of promoting productive relief programs.

In connection with the land reform, a well-planned, carefully-led party membership campaign should be conducted, giving special attention to that bastion of party organization, the detachment (chih-pu).

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In the older liberated areas all land-reform questions should be settled in accordance with the policies of the Central Committee and the North China Bureau during the winter and spring of 1949 - 1950. Care should be exercised that there is no violation of the land and property rights of any class after the completion of the land-reform program, so that production may be maintained and expanded.

In view of the prior need for political and military reorganization, regulation of rents and interest, and the establishment of revolutionary procedures in Suiyuan Province, the land-reform program will be delayed until the winter and spring of 1950-51.

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